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TORONTO • TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2009

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Celebrity pg 18

Ex denies slashing, trashing Gosselin's flat

New Yorkers shred away a bad year

GOOD RIDDANCE Want to forget 2009? Shred it. Scores of New Yorkers and tourists seeking a fresh start in 2010 came to Times Square yesterday to put their bad memories through the shredder at the third annual Good Riddance Day.

The winner of a \$250 prize for most creative item shredded was 12-year-old Alissa Yankelevits of Los Angeles, who was visiting her grandparents in New York. She shredded the memory of a counselor on a school trip, who was later featured on the TV show America's Most Wanted.

"I just spent a week with him," Alissa said.

"It was really terrifying because I just found that out."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?
Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 2

Food pg 15

Hot totties are elegant

On the web

Visit metronews.ca for news updates

Juniors First of three



Canadian forward Brandon McMillan celebrates his first goal against Switzerland yesterday during first-period action at the world junior hockey championship in Saskatoon. McMillan had three goals as Canada blanked the Swiss 6-0. More coverage, page 11.

'Serious reminder'

War on terror continually threatens the U.S.: Obama

Talking publicly yesterday for the first time since a failed Christmas Day plot to blow up a U.S. airliner in flight, U.S. President Barack Obama called it "a serious reminder" of the need to adapt continually to the terror threat facing the United States.

Even as Obama vowed to use "every element of our national power" to keep Americans safe, word came

Yemeni group claims responsibility

Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula claimed responsibility for the attack as retaliation for a U.S. operation against the group in Yemen. Yemeni forces, helped by U.S. intelligence, carried out two air strikes against al-Qaida operatives this month in lawless areas of Yemen, which is fast becoming a major front in the war on terror.

that a U.S. State Department warning had failed to trigger an effort to revoke the alleged attacker's visa. Officials in Yemen confirmed the suspect, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, had been living in that

country, where an al-Qaida-affiliated group quickly sought to take responsibility for his actions.

Obama, on vacation in his birthplace of Hawaii, acknowledged the attack showed the need to increase the United States' defences. "This was a serious reminder of the dangers that we face," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
MORE COVERAGE, PAGES 2, 6

Blast of winter arrives

With Environment Canada predicting the coldest night in Toronto so far this winter, the city called an extreme weather alert and provided additional support services to help the homeless find shelter from the cold.

Temperatures are going to plunge fairly rapidly (last evening for Toronto. We are forecasting a low (last night) dipping down to -14 C," said Mark Seifert, Environment Canada meteorologist.

Seifert also said strong winds would accompany the cold front, dropping the temperature late overnight and into early today to -25 C with wind chill. On the coldest days so far this winter, the temperature fell to -11.7 C Dec. 17 and 22.

"With wind chill values of -25 you don't want to have exposed skin for any prolonged periods of time, so cover up and stay indoors if possible," Seifert said.

He said regions surrounding the GTA should expect slightly colder readings, but temperatures should level off in Toronto this afternoon, Seifert said.

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Local



Pizzeria open for business

Cora Pizza has reopened and is back to serving slices after being closed for more than a week after public health officials discovered a rat infestation. The restaurant, a late-night institution for denizens of nearby University of Toronto student housing, was closed Dec. 21 after Toronto Public Health discovered dead rats and fresh droppings. The Spadina Avenue eatery failed a re-inspection on Dec. 23 but got a pass on Christmas Eve and is now back to normal.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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Man who fell 13 storeys conscious

SURVIVOR The last thing Dilshod Mamurov remembers before falling 13 storeys was frantically clinging to a scaffold where he had been working.

"He doesn't remember how he fell," said Bakhtier Shakhnazarov, a member of the local Uzbek community. He spoke with Mamurov, 21, when he regained consciousness after the Christmas Eve accident that killed four of his co-workers.

"He was the last one hanging on," said Shakhnazarov. "It's a miracle that he survived."

Staff at Sunnybrook Hospital told Shakhnazarov Mamurov faces a marathon of surgery to repair two fractured legs and a broken spine.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Delays continue at Pearson

'This is probably five times the lines we've ever experienced': Passenger

Holiday travellers are coping with another day of delays at Toronto's Pearson International Airport as security is tightened in the wake of a failed Christmas Day terrorist attack in Detroit.

While the long lineups seemed to be easing from those that snaked through the large airport over the weekend, tired and frustrated passengers were trying hard to take it all in stride.

Many praised the orderliness of Air Canada's process of checking for American flights. But one woman said the lines are the worst she's seen during her family's annual Christmas trek to Canada.

"This is probably five times the lines we've ever experienced," said Christin Grand, who was travelling home to Atlanta with her three children and husband.

"We're going to be pushed through because of our three kids ... hopefully ... my infant is six months," she said while her husband tried to calm another crying child.

"We come up every Christmas and never experienced lines like this. We usually show up an hour



Passengers departing Toronto Pearson Airport faced smaller lineups yesterday compared to the previous day. The increased security measures following the recent bomb plot aboard a passenger jet bound to Detroit from Amsterdam has slowed U.S.-bound travel through Pearson.

and fifteen minutes before our flight and we're two plus hours before and it's still crazy."

Passengers are being allowed just one small carry-on bag and face body pat-downs at customs. Extra RCMP officers have been called in to help with security and customs screening.

Still, officials say things

are running more smoothly as Air Canada is consolidating some flights to ease the crunch.

But don't expect the extra security measures to be lifted soon.

Trish Krale of the Greater Toronto Airports Authority says she doesn't expect the measures to be lifted "for at least several days."

There have been lengthy lineups at the airport since the failed attack Friday by a suspect identified as Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, 23, of Nigeria.

He was charged Saturday with trying to blow up a Northwest Airlines flight as the plane approached Detroit by igniting an explosive substance hidden in his

pants. An al-Qaida group has claimed responsibility for the attempt.

The attempted terrorist attack prompted authorities to add new layers of security on top of measures adopted after the Sept. 11 attacks.

The added security included additional searches of passengers and carry-on bags prior to boarding and restrictions to just one carry-on piece per passenger.

U.S.-bound travellers still face long lineups and some delays at Pearson's Terminal 1 but the crunch is easing.

An Air Canada sales and service agent says the wait to check in baggage and passengers is about a half-hour.

"We are getting the people checked in on time" said Lincoln Sivasanmugam, but he could not say what was happening once travellers got inside to U.S. customs.

"We keep on moving but the hiccup is inside," he said.

Air Canada is also being held to strict landing times by U.S. airports.

In order to meet those deadlines, flights must leave exactly on time or be cancelled.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tomorrow's Metro

West View

Paul Sullivan brings the West's perspective on Canadian events to Metro's pages.



metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Kandahar's own 'Central Park' serves as an oasis of calm in a city plagued by violence at metronews.ca/world

Blogs It's Called Football on how a life-saving medical procedure opened the Premiership door for one of the world's greatest players.



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More wireless choice in 2010

Consumers will have more choice as Canada's wireless landscape heats up with new cellphone companies expected to offer more than price to charm them in or out of a contract.

For the first time in about a decade, new cellphone companies will be courting consumers in a bid to win business away from major competitors Rogers, Bell and Telus.

Globalign's Wind Mobile bills itself as Canada's fourth national carrier and is up and running in Toronto and Calgary and will launch next year in Edmonton, Ottawa and Vancouver.

New companies Dave Wireless, Public Mobile and Videotron will also launch in 2010.

"Big changes for cellphone competition in Canada," read a recent tweet on social networking site Twitter, capturing the optimism



Wind Mobile CEO Ken Campbell, left, and Anthony Lacavera, chairman of Globalign and Wind Mobile, at the company launch in Toronto in December.

of smartphone aficionados after the federal government ruled that Wind Mobile was Canadian owned, overturning a CRTC decision that had initially blocked its launch.

What Canadians should

expect from this new competition is to get more value for their money, said analyst Carmi Levy.

The new players should mean plans that are friendlier to Canadians' needs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Word gets out on Roncesvalles

SALON One strict rule applies to anybody wanting to read at the Free Speech literary salon.

You must be a writer living in Roncesvalles Village.

You must be a poet, novelist or non-fiction writer, or, if not, you must be a songwriter or stand-up comedian or, in one case, a story-telling puppeteer.

And if you don't actually live in the neighbourhood, you must have a strong connection to it.

"I love being home alone

in my favourite reading chair discovering a new poet, or a novelist, who lives right around the corner from me," founder and emcee Johan Hultqvist told a recent gathering.

Nearly three years ago, in the upper room at Tinto Coffee House on Roncesvalles Ave., Hultqvist and two friends read stories and a singer/songwriter played after each. The format stuck.

Hultqvist hosts the series on the last Tuesday of the month.

Salon alumni

- Catherine Bush, author of Claire's Head
- Ray Robertson, author of David
- Elizabeth Shepherd, a jazz performer
- Shyam Selvadurai, author of Funny Boy

News in brief

ACCIDENT Two women are recovering in hospital after their minivan lost control and drove into a creek in Vaughan Sunday. Police say the vehicle

was travelling eastbound on Langstaff Road when it lost control, drove off the road and ended up in the river.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ROM building panned by U.S. paper

Another month, another bad review for the Royal Ontario Museum. The Washington Post has called the Michael Lee-Chin Crystal the worst piece of architecture built in the past decade. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Queues got people down

Angrier than usual as 2009 draws to a close? Probably residual queue rage.

In the past year, Torontonians stood around waiting for H1N1 vaccines, faced garbage strike queues, lined up to buy condos, shuffled to buy TTC tokens and were subjected to the daily headache of the most loathed line of all — the traffic jam.

"If someone in suburbia commutes

every day of his or her working life, it's not too difficult under reasonable assumptions to say that person spends one to two years in traffic queues," said Richard Larson, the director of the Center for Engineering Systems Fundamentals at MIT.

And all that waiting around can make a person miserable.

Queue rage is what happens in the

absence of fair play: It elicits exaggerated sighs, rolled eyes and shouting matches.

"Doesn't that make people furious when you hear those athletes get (the vaccine)? That's line jumping in policy, even if you can't see a physical line," Larson said.

Larson, who is also known as Dr. Q, said new technologies

like ATMs and the Internet have caused the line to die off a little.

But in Toronto, the line continues to thrive, enraging many and delighting only the masochists. Myron Hlynka, a queuing theorist at the University of Windsor, said 2009 was probably worse than other years.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Hotelier heads up Pan Am board

Former hotel executive Roger Garland will be heading up the 12-member board tasked with organizing the 2015 Pan Am Games.

Garland, who spent 25 years as an officer and director of the Four Seasons luxury hotel chain, will serve as chairman of the board.

He's joined by several members of the Canadian Olympic Committee, including Michael Cham-

bers and Marcel Aubut, who once served as president and CEO of the former Quebec Nordiques NHL team.

The board also includes several former Olympians, such as gold medalist Sylvie Bernier, and business heavyweights like Martha Billes, whose family founded the Canadian Tire store chain, and media executive Tony Gagliano. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



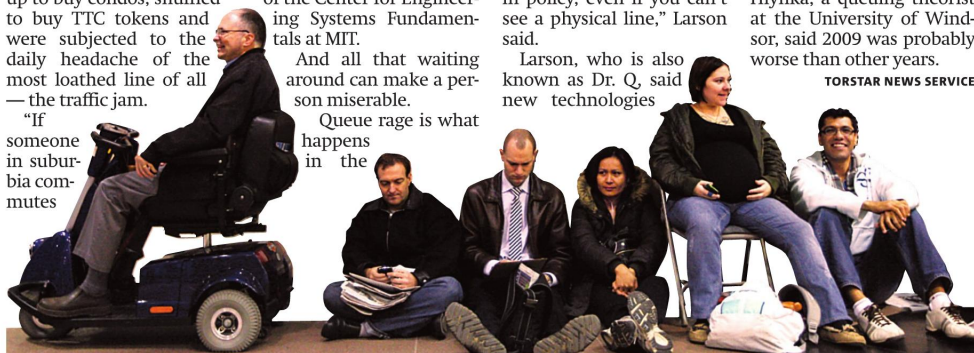
Sylvie Bernier

News in brief

SHOOTING A man is dead after being shot by police outside the Eglinton Town Centre theatre Sunday, said Frank Phillips, an investigator with the province's special investigations unit. Phillips

said there were eight investigators on the scene. Phillips couldn't say how many shots were fired or how many bullets hit the victim, who has not been named.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Tuesday, December 29, 2009

4

Vito Rizzuto's son, Nick, gunned down
Nick Rizzuto, the son of Vito Rizzuto, the so-called godfather of Canada's dominant Mafia clan, was shot in broad daylight beside a Mercedes sedan in Montreal yesterday. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Canada

Film board's iPhone app popular abroad

More downloads internationally than in Canada

The National Film Board of Canada's new iPhone application has proven to be a hit beyond this country's borders, with 40 per cent more people downloading NFB content from abroad than in Canada.

Since its launch on Oct. 21, there have been nearly 80,000 downloads internationally and just over 56,000 in Canada from people seeking out the NFB's documentaries and animation.

Among the top five plays on the iPhone are The Cat Came Back, Canada Vignettes: Log Driver's Waltz and HA-Aki.

The iPhone app is just one of the international successes recorded in the 70th anniversary year of the NFB, the national producer and distributor of films, documentaries, animation and shorts.

Besides looking back at its fabled past, chair Tom Perlmutter said the NFB continued its efforts to position itself solidly in the future by exploring new markets.

The film board is already mining partnerships with Brazil and Australia.

In Brazil, the NFB signed a three-year co-operation agreement with the Brazilian Culture Ministry's Au-

THE WORLD ACCORDING TO MONSANTO

Based on the best-selling book by Marie-Monique Robin (available in bookstores from Stanké publishers)



The National Film Board of Canada's new iPhone application has proven to be a hit abroad, with people downloading NFB content such as The World According to Monsanto.

Online

• NFB.ca, the film board's retooled website, has had almost 3 million views since it launched a year ago. About 1,700 of the NFB's 13,000 productions are online and more are constantly being added.

diovisual Secretariat to explore new ways to make and distribute documen-

taries for multiple platforms.

The NFB has already worked with FilmAustralia to create an experimental series of short documentary and animation films aimed at cellphone and podcast distribution.

The board also expanded its distribution of educational titles in Haiti, France and the United Kingdom.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

9-11 'defining moment' of the aughts, poll says

TERROR It was the decade of a cataclysmic act of terrorism and its violent aftermath.

And the world-altering terrorist attacks on New York and Washington are together the defining moment of the 21st century so far, according to a new poll.

The Canadian Press-Harris Decima poll found a plurality of 43 per cent — twice the second-best response — naming 9-11 as the most important and profound event of the last 10 years.

The co-ordinated attack was the top choice among both women and men, and

for both young and old.

The 2008 election of America's first black president, Barack Obama, was favoured by 22 per cent of respondents, and another 17 per cent chose the recent Great Recession as singular events in the decade.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Locals contribute their know-how to the frugal traveller's guide to the Vancouver Olympics. Scan this barcode for the full article.

Protester knocks down torch bearer

GUELPH A woman carrying the Olympic torch in Guelph yesterday morning was knocked down by a protester.

Police say it happened as the 28-year-old woman from Milton was carrying the flame and was approached by a group of protesters.

She was treated by medical staff at the scene.

The flame was not extinguished during the incident.

Brittney Simpson, 19, of Kitchener has been charged with assault.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Follow the Olympic torch's journey with an interactive map at metronews.ca/sports

Truck takes out pole, power in Halifax

Hundreds of people in Halifax were without electricity yesterday after a truck went out of control and took out a power pole. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

canada 5

Canadian ingenuity aids student sleuths

DNA samples reveal truth behind N.Y. products

Two American high school students have used unique Canadian DNA technology to identify numerous mislabelled food products in New York City markets, deepening concerns over the widespread problem of fraudulence in the marketplace.

From mislabelled fish to cow's milk being passed off as pricey sheep's milk, the Grade 12 students said a high percentage of the foods they collected as samples were not what they were said to be.

Brenda Tan and Matt Cost of Trinity School in Manhattan gathered about 150 DNA samples from foods and objects in their homes and neighbourhood as part of a science project with Rockefeller University and the American Museum of Natural History.

Tan said they found that 11 of the 66 fish, prepackaged and other food products bought largely at

"Most of the mislabelling involves substitution of something less expensive or desirable, which suggests it's done for profit."

Matt Cost, student

neighbourhood markets were mislabelled.

That included a specialty sheep's milk cheese that was made from cow's milk, venison dog treats made of beef and sturgeon caviar that was really Mississippi paddlefish.

"You should get what you pay for," Cost said from New York before their findings are published in January's edition of BioScience magazine.

"We don't know where it occurs, but most of the mislabelling involves substitution of something less

expensive or desirable, which suggests it's done for profit."

The students gathered the DNA samples in their apartments, supermarkets, their school and at fresh markets, finding that most of the hundreds of samples had detectable DNA even after being frozen, dry-cleaned or shipped thousands of kilometres.

They sent the samples to the natural history museum, which tapped into a databank of DNA bar codes that was pioneered by Canadian scientists at the University of Guelph.

The Consortium for the Bar Code of Life project involves identifying a particular DNA sequence in marine and animal life that is unique to the species. That allows scientists to accurately identify the species and create a so-called bar code of its DNA similar to the black and white stripes on store goods.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa Winter walk



People walk along a road yesterday through the Experimental Farm in Ottawa.

News in brief

SHOTGUNS Provincial police are looking for several shotguns stolen from a home in central Ontario. Police say the six shotguns were stolen last week during a break-in north of Owen Sound, in Georgian Bluffs. Thieves also made off with Christmas gifts, jewelry and clothing. Two of the stolen guns are described as hinge break 12-gauge shotguns. The other four were 12-gauge pump shotguns.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Economist says Canadian recession 'Made in the U.S.A.'

DOWNTURN A new analysis of Canada's recent economic collapse shows it can be traced almost entirely to the United States.

Dale Orr Economic Insight says the Canadian domestic economy largely stood still during the 2008-09 slump that shaved \$100 billion from where economic output would have been.

That is precisely the loss

in the value of exports from where they would have been had the economy continued to chug along at a stable 2.7 per cent rate of growth that preceded the downturn.

Economist Dale Orr says since most of those exports would have been bound for the U.S., the recession was mostly a "Made in the U.S.A." phenomenon.

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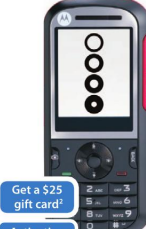


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Officials say nine people, including six children, are dead in an apartment fire in Mississippi. State fire marshal Mike Chaney says the pre-dawn fire happened at an apartment complex in Starkville. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

World



Get stuck on ice, you may pay for it

Ohio authorities are making some changes following last winter's stranding of 130 fishermen on an ice floe. The rescue operation cost the U.S. Coast Guard more than \$245,000 on Feb. 7 after a large chunk of ice broke away in Lake Erie. Local Sheriff Bob Bratton says rescues from lake ice will now be co-ordinated by fire departments, and they will decide whether any fishermen will face civil penalties effectively billing them for the services. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Pirates share \$4-million ransom

SOMALIA A band of Somali pirates split a \$4-million US ransom to release a Chinese cargo ship and 25 sailors after two months in captivity, one of the hijackers said yesterday. The European Union Naval Force said the bulk carrier De Xin Hai was released Sunday. The crew and ship are in good condition, the force said.

"We have been given the ransom money, checked it, counted it and shared it among ourselves," said the self-proclaimed pirate.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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More details about the suspect in the botched bomb plot have emerged as the probe continues. Scan this barcode for the full article.

Airlines ease in-flight curbs

In-flight security rules have been eased after a two-day clampdown, U.S. airline officials familiar with the matter said yesterday.

At the captain's discretion, passengers can once again have blankets and other items on their laps or move about the cabin during the tail end of flight. In-flight entertainment restrictions have also been lifted.

Tougher security measures were imposed Friday after a man flying from Nigeria to Amsterdam to Detroit tried to ignite an explosive.

Travellers on incoming international flights said that during the final hour, attendants removed blankets, banned opening overhead bins, and told passengers to stay seated with their hands in plain sight. Authorities in-

troduced a second layer of security at U.S. customs pre-clearance at Pearson Airport. Yesterday, every U.S.-bound passenger was subjected to a pat down and luggage inspected by hand. It took about three hours for travellers to get through the checks.

On one Air Canada flight from Toronto to New York's La Guardia Airport, the crew told passengers that in addition to remaining in their seats for the duration of the one-hour flight, they were not allowed to use electronic devices — even iPods — or their own headphones.

The crew also told passengers they would not be able to access their personal belongings because of the "enhanced security procedures." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Condemned man mentally ill: Family

CHINA Relatives made a last-minute plea for mercy yesterday for a Briton scheduled to be executed in China for drug smuggling — after visiting the man whom they say may be mentally ill.

Akmal Shaikh, a 53-year-old father of three, was not aware that his execution had been scheduled for today, until his cousins told him. He would be the first citizen of a European country to be put to death in China in half a century.

China has already rejected a plea from British Prime Minister Gordon Brown for Shaikh to be spared.

"We beg the Chinese authorities for mercy and clemency to help reunite this heartbroken family," his cousin, Soohail Shaikh, said in the western city of Urumqi, where his cousin is being held. "He was obviously very upset on hearing from us of the sentence that



Akmal Shaikh, a 53-year-old British father of three, would be the first European citizen to be put to death in China in half a century.

Most executions

• Eleventh-hour appeals are almost never granted in China, which executes more people each year than all other countries combined.

was passed," Soohail Shaikh said. "We strongly feel that he's not rational and he

needs medication."

It is not clear why Shaikh had not been aware until yesterday he was facing execution.

Shaikh was sentenced in a half-hour trial in 2008 for taking a suitcase containing four kilograms of heroin into Urumqi in 2007.

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Travel Jan 7 - Jan 14/wg + taxes & fees \$216

St Petersburg
Travel Jan 8 - Jan 15/wg + taxes & fees \$219

London
Travel Jan 22 - Feb 5/ts + taxes & fees \$395

Los Cabos
Travel Jan 2 - Jan 9/wg + taxes & fees \$277

Vancouver
Travel Jan 27/ac + taxes & fees \$65

Jamaica
Travel Jan 15 - Jan 22/c6 + taxes & fees \$268

New York
Travel Jan 25 - Feb 1/aa + taxes & fees \$113

Rome
Travel Feb 9 - Feb 23/ua + taxes & fees \$366

Honolulu
Travel Jan 21 - Jan 28/dl + taxes & fees \$119

Johannesburg
Travel Feb 15 - Mar 2/kl + taxes & fees \$425

Bangkok
Travel Jan 26 - Feb 9/ua + taxes & fees \$275

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Laotian refugees evicted from Thailand

Thailand sent troops to evict more than 4,000 ethnic Hmong asylum-seekers yesterday and send them back to Laos. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

world 7

Man's body missing

Corpse of Mousavi's nephew taken from hospital

The body of the nephew of Iran's opposition leader — slain in the deadliest day of anti-government protests in months — disappeared from a hospital yesterday, and security forces detained at least seven prominent activists, opposition reports said.

Iranian state TV reported that eight people had died in the street violence Sunday, but independent confirmation of the casualty toll was virtually impossible because of curbs on media cov-

erage. Reza Mousavi said yesterday that the body of his brother, Ali Mousavi, was taken overnight from a Tehran hospital and that nobody had accepted "responsibility" for removing the corpse.

Authorities were possibly seeking to deter protests around the funeral.

The slain man was the nephew of opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi, a presidential contender in a disputed June election.

The bloodshed Sunday

drew harsh condemnation from one opposition leader, who compared the government to the dictatorship that was ousted by the Islamic Revolution three decades ago.

The crackdown drew sharp criticism from the West, which is already locked in a dispute with Iran over its suspected efforts to develop nuclear weapons. Iran says its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Argentina Thousands flee floodwaters



A boy carries birds in cages from a flood north of Buenos Aires yesterday. Flooding has killed two people and caused the evacuation of 3,000 as the Arco River overflowed.

News in brief

PHILIPPINES Unidentified gunmen opened fire yesterday on a convoy of local officials in the northern Philippines, killing one and wounding nine others

before fleeing. Village leader Joen Diego was killed in the attack on the four-vehicle convoy that came from a Christmas party, police said. Among the

wounded were people set to run in May elections. The attack comes a month after the Nov. 23 massacre of 57 people.

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Comment

Trudeau can spark hope for youth

NationalReport

Lawrence Martin

metronews.ca/nationalreport

Here's what we need in 2010 — the youth to take over. Everybody is sick and tired, or at least they should be, of the eternal grip on power of the post-

war baby boomer cohort. These people are old, intellectually worn out, shorn of idealism and duller than the Manitoba tundra.

Take, for example, our federal party leaders. They are all very smart, erudite men. But if you're looking for an inspiration deficit, look no further. Stephen Harper is only 50, but he's about as hip as a Toyota Corolla.

Bookworm Michael Ignatieff looks like he hasn't seen a ray of sunshine since the '60s. Jack

Layton has a demeanour that conjures up Russia in the throes of Bolshevism. And Gilles Duceppe? Well, go back a bit further. The pre-Cambrian era might do.

The youth of the nation look on and, understandably, look away, especially on voting day. But it can't stay like this. It's their country. They have to make a move.

Among our elected representatives, in the cobwebbed chamber that is the House of Commons, there is one guy with the

potential to light a fuse.

Justin Trudeau, 38, is the politician who can change things. He is young, articulate in both languages, dashing, magnetic. Wherever he goes he draws a crowd. Charisma is a rare political gift. About one in 1,000 have it. He has it.

Trudeau initially had the reputation of being a bit flaky. But he hasn't come across that way since arriving in Ottawa. He's shown a sense of discipline and a willingness to be patient and learn. At the same time

he has a sense of humour and strikes one as an independent thinker. Others who come to politics at a young age lose their freshness. Given the pressures of the game, they get turned into party hacks. James Moore, the talented young Tory heritage minister, runs that risk. Trudeau, on the other hand, comes across as a breed apart.

The Liberals should do all they can to showcase him. The youth vote is up for grabs in this country and the party that gets it

will be the party on the move. It's how Barack Obama won. As his campaign manager, David Plouffe, relates in his book, *The Audacity To Win*, what the Obama campaign did was change the electorate. It reached down below the boring baby boomers to the emerging younger cohort and awakened it.

That's what has to happen here.

Lawrence Martin is a journalist and author of 10 books who writes about national affairs from Ottawa.

Views

Governments' great fiscal challenge

InBusiness

Charles Davies

metronews.ca/inbusiness

Unless you had some spare cash and were smart enough to buy stocks when the market bottomed last March, 2009 is probably a year you want to forget.

The recession that began in October 2008 cut overall economic growth by an estimated three per cent. The nine-month downturn shuttered factories, ballooned unemployment, channelled taxpayer dollars into dubious bailouts, and left gov-

ernments at all levels with fat deficits.

As the year turns, there are signs of optimism. The housing market is beginning to improve and companies are starting to hire again. For now, interest rates remain low and inflation is in check. And as many have pointed out, Canada has weathered the economic storm far better than the rest of the G7.

But let's not get carried away. Given the still fragile state of U.S. economic recovery, Canada's prospects for 2010 remain dicey. And certainly for governments, the new year will usher in an arduous financial test. To fight the recession, governments pumped money into tax and unemployment re-

lief, support for industry and major spending on infrastructure renewal, among other things. Ottawa's commitment alone was more than \$47 billion, generating a federal deficit in the current fiscal year of roughly \$56 billion.

Now, governments have to start bringing finances back into line so they will be able to cope with the extreme demands of the coming decade — health care for an aging population, potentially costly pension reform, and continuing infrastructural renewal needs, to name a few.

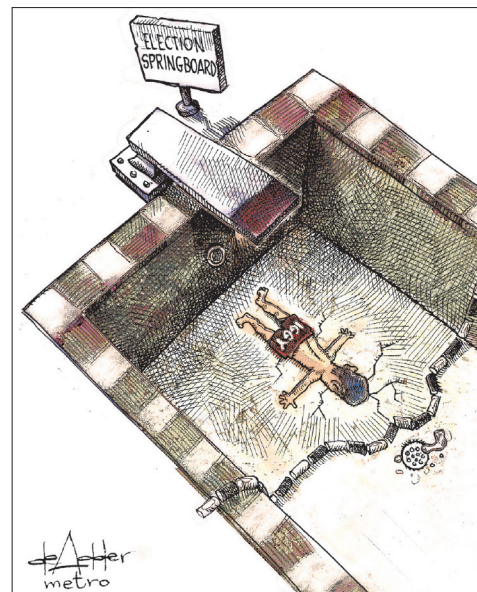
They have limited means to do this. Governments don't want to raise taxes, nor do they want to tamper with politically touchy

items like transfer payments. As a result, you get people like Premier Dalton McGuinty musing about the viability of selling off Crown assets such as the province's liquor monopoly, or federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty saying he plans to trim government by failing to replace retiring civil servants.

These are tough decisions. Liquor is one of the world's great recession-proof businesses, and history shows it's much easier to grow the civil service than to reduce it. A finance minister's office is unlikely to be a happy place in 2010.

Charles Davies is a veteran business writer who has worked for Canadian and international news organizations.

Michael de Adder's best of 2009



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Syria turns to Russia for passenger jets

Syria will buy two Russian-made Tupolev passenger jets to modernize its national carrier's aging fleet after the United States rejected a bid by Airbus SAS to sell planes to Damascus, Syria's transportation minister said. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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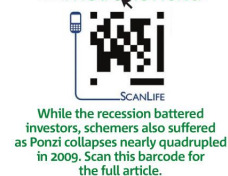
EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Audi allots \$10.5B to upgrade plants

AUTOS Audi AG said yesterday it plans to spend \$10.51 billion US on plant upgrades, new products and technology research as it moves to expand its number of customers worldwide and increase market share.

The company, a unit of Volkswagen AG, said it plans to increase the number of models to 42 by 2015 from its current 34, adding the A1, A7, A8 and R8 Spyder to its portfolio in 2010, along with the Q5 Hybrid in the beginning of 2011. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Hot business in T.O.

Independent coffee shops take off in city

Sam James Coffee Bar at Harbord and Clinton, offering the basics of espresso-based drinks and select pastries, is arguably Toronto's hottest new coffee shop.

Not hot

- Tim Hortons has been growing, but its stocks have been stale since it went public in 2006.
- In fiscal 2009, Starbucks Corp. closed more stores than it opened.

boom this city has seen. Since James' coffee bar opened in August, nine more "independents" have followed in different Toronto neighbourhoods.



Sam James owns what is arguably Toronto's hottest coffee shop.

That makes almost 25 this year, and a couple shops, like local darlings Dark Horse Espresso Bar and Ezra's Pound, have opened second locations.

Yet, many neighbourhood café owners are predicting the number of independent shops in Toron-

to will soon multiply. "I think that next year you're going to see another 20 (openings), if not another 30," says Stuart Ross, owner of Bulldog Coffee near Church and Carlton. "It's just the hot business right now," he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Business in brief

OIL Prime Minister Vladimir Putin opened a new oil export terminal in the port of Kozmi- no to serve as the gateway for Russian energy exports to Asia. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Your Money

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Change in interest rates will affect bond market

Investing

Allan Small

metronews.ca/investing

If interest rates rise, how will this affect investors who own fixed rate securities such as bonds or bond funds in their portfolios?

Currently, interest rates are at all-time lows with most bonds selling at well above \$100. If interest rates begin to rise, bond prices will begin to fall and become less expensive to buy for investors. For new purchases, this would increase an investor's rate of return as the bond would cost less to purchase. For

bonds currently held in portfolios, the price would gradually fall as well as interest rates rise, effectively lowering the value of the investment and the whole portfolio. If an investor were to own bond mutual funds it is possible the price of the bond fund could fall as well.

If an investor owns an individual bond to maturity, regardless of what interest rates do, they will get the matured amount back (face value). For those who hold bond mutual funds or even bond ETF's, there is no final maturity date and thus these types of investments can fluctuate when interest rates change.

Allan Small can be reached at asmall@dun-deesecurities.com. The views expressed are not necessarily those of Dundee Securities.

New year, new resolutions

Alison On Money

Alison Griffiths

metronews.ca/alisononmoney

How I love this silly season of resolutions.

Three days from now we can all step out of our old, bad selves and into new and better models. And all you have to do is make a promise or two.

Money resolutions are popular at this time of year, if for no other reason than credit and debit card excess will soon lead to a financial hangover that can linger well into the

spring months.

I can think of many worthwhile financial resolutions but I decided to focus on a single one for 2010. Get organized. I picked it because organization is well within everyone's grasp. What's the point of making a resolution you can't keep?

Time and time again I see the roots of financial woes in disorganization.

Sometimes it is a disorganized mind failing to ask the right questions.

Did I buy it already? Do I need it?

Does what I have really need to be replaced?

placed?

Other times it is physical disorganization such as not keeping receipts for warranty protection, returns and income tax purposes.

Figuring out where to start can be overwhelming so take the first step by following the Keep It Timeline.

1. Tax information and returns — 6 years.

2. Investment statements — 3 years (if you are reporting capital gains or losses on investments those statements must be also kept for 6 years.)

3. Purchase receipts — double the warranty period as some retailers may replace or repair items

past the warranty date. I once got a ski jacket zipper replaced two years after buying the jacket.

4. Bank and credit card statements — 2 years.

Every year at tax time purge your old records and don't forget to shred as you do.

The Keep It Timeline is a great start to financial organization because in order to store the information you must create a dated file for each category. And that forces you to pay attention to all that paper. You'll be on top of it in no time. Happy New Year.

Alison Griffiths is a financial journalist, author and host of Maxed Out on the W Network. Write to her at alison@alisongriffiths.ca.

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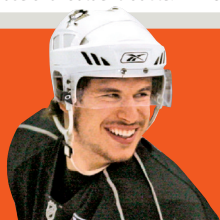
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Mets sign Escobar

The New York Mets signed right-hander Kelvim Escobar to a one-year, \$1.25-million US contract yesterday. Escobar, an 18-game winner in 2007, missed nearly all of the past two seasons with the Los Angeles Angels because of shoulder trouble. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

11

Sports



Crosby joins elite group

Sidney Crosby, left, was named The Canadian Press male athlete of the year yesterday, joining an exclusive club by earning the recognition for a second time. Only 12 hockey players have won the Lionel Conacher Award since it was established in 1932 and just six of those men have received it more than once. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Canadians record another shutout

McMillan nets hat trick against Swiss

WORLD JUNIORS**Canada 6, Switzerland 0**

Jordan Eberle scored a goal and set up four others, including three by Brandon McMillan, as Canada downed Switzerland 6-0 yesterday for its second straight shutout at the world junior hockey championship.

Nazem Kadri and Alex Pietrangelo also scored for Canada, which trounced Latvia 16-0 in its tournament opener Saturday.

Jake Allen of the Montre-

al Juniors made 15 saves and has needed to stop just 25 shots in two games to register a pair of shutouts.

Canada (2-0) continues preliminary round play tonight against Slovakia (1-1). Switzerland (0-2) plays Latvia (0-2) tomorrow.

Coach Willie Desjardins' squad came out wearing its new Saskatchewan green uniforms before 13,301 at the 14,000-seat Credit Union Centre and proceeded to dominate the Swiss with its high pace and physical play.

The Swiss lost 3-0 to the United States in their

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opener Sunday, but goalie Benjamin Konz was the star with 46 saves. This time, he was beaten five times on his first 20 shots, but still made 48 saves as Canada had a 54-15 shot advantage.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Team Canada defenceman Alex Pietrangelo celebrates with goalie Jake Allen yesterday after defeating Switzerland 6-0.

Sports in brief

HOCKEY Mark Bell scored twice as Canada defeated HC Davos 6-2 yesterday to remain unbeaten at the Spengler Cup. Canada (2-0) took control of the game early, storming out to a 4-0 second-period lead in a battle of undefeated teams.

SPEEDSKATING Cindy Klassen has qualified for the Vancouver Olympics. The Winnipeg native finished second in the 3,000 metres at the Canadian single distance championships and Canadian Olympic team trials by clocking a time of four minutes 06.08 seconds.

NFL Bills starting quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick will test his sore ankle this week to determine whether he can play in Buffalo's season finale against Indianapolis. Interim head coach Perry Fewell was optimistic Fitzpatrick can play Sunday after missing one game, a 31-3 loss to Atlanta this past weekend.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Chelsea rallied to beat Fulham 2-1 yesterday and take a five-point lead atop the Premier League standings. It was also an eventful day for Tottenham, which returned to the Champions League places with a 2-0 victory over West Ham. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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NBA

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Oklahoma City at New Jersey
Washington at Memphis
L.A. Lakers at Phoenix
Philadelphia at Portland
Denver at Sacramento
Boston at Golden State

For game scores, visit metro.ca/sports

Colts' Caldwell has no regrets about controversial choice

NFL Colts coach Jim Caldwell believes he made the right call Sunday, even if everyone from NFL purists to Indianapolis fans disagree.

When the Colts pulled their starters in the third quarter against the New York Jets, they essentially pulled the plug on the pos-

sibility of a perfect season.

Since then, Indy radio shows have been flooded with callers and faxes from angry fans.

Some said they wanted refunds.

Others suggested the

Colts didn't lose to the Jets, they forfeited.

Analysts contend the team threw away a shot at history.

But Caldwell insists he did the right thing by protecting Peyton Manning and his teammates from the risk of injury, and players continue to support the decision.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Decisions loom for Packers as playoffs approach

The Green Bay Packers pulled it off, rallying from a 4-4 start to make the NFL playoffs.

Their reward could be back-to-back games at defending NFC champion Arizona, beginning with Sunday's regular-season finale and followed by a potential playoff game against the same team in the same place the following week.

It's a unique challenge for the Packers (10-5). Coaches must decide if they should go all-out for a victory Sunday, or rest key players and keep some plays under wraps in case they play the Cardinals again.

Packers coach Mike McCarthy wasn't tipping his hand.

"We're not going to

change the way we approach games, the way we play games, and I'm sure our opponent's not going to, this week or next week," McCarthy said. "To me, I think a lot is being made of this, but it's also part of game-planning."

"It serves me no good to sit here in the best interests of our football team and discuss those things today."

Besides, McCarthy said, teams always have more plays available in their weekly game plans than they end up actually using in a game.

"I think any NFL football team in all three phases could play a doubleheader from a game-planning standpoint if they needed to," McCarthy said. "I'm not worried about showing anything."

"You play football games to win games, and that's not going to change."

And McCarthy wouldn't discuss the possibility of resting starters Sunday.

"You can lessen the risk factor of injury by trying to save a certain individual, and I'm aware of all that," McCarthy said. "We've talked about all those different options and so forth, and those are things you look at and we'll do what's in the best interests of our football team." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Mike McCarthy

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Health Canada is warning consumers who are watching their weight to stay away from an unauthorized product sold over the Internet that contains a synthetic substance called benzylpiperazine, or BZP. The product is RevolutionDS Weight Loss, and is sold in capsule form. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Health & Beauty

Try a new look on New Year's Eve

Finding the right mascara is easy, applying it with a meticulous finish isn't

JANINE FALCON
for Metro Canada

A New Year's Eve fête is a perfect opportunity to grab your beauty gumption with both hands and try something new, something a little outside your comfort zone, something a little scary — a

mascara with a wand tip that looks like a medieval weapon, perhaps?

With its mace-like spiked-sphere wand, Givenchy's Phenomen'Eyes was the biggest news in mascara innovation when it launched in 2008 in the U.S. It became available to Canadians just this past



Getting the right look for you eyes is easy with today's products.

With just a few flicks, the lashes are made up right down to the roots."

The brush allows the user to build up lashes that need more attention. Also important is the formula, which Degennes revealed is a water-based recipe with a cutting-edge polymer CoverGirl that sets Lash Blast in their curve Luxe Mascara with just one stroke.

Phenomen'Eyes retails for \$32. Also now available is L'Oréal Paris' new Telescopic Explosion Mascara, a \$12.95 drugstore version with a similar brush design, albeit slightly slimmer, more elongated.

If the new shape in mascara brushes is too much for you, you can still try something a little different with CoverGirl LashBlast Luxe, an iridescent metallic mascara formula with a giant wand that intimidated some when it first launched, too (\$8.99 at drugstores and mass retailers).

Don't drink and walk, says doctor

CELINA MILNE
for Metro Canada

PARTIES Alcohol impairs many of the faculties that normally keep you safe, says trauma surgeon Dr. Thomas Esposito at Loyola University in Chicago.

For instance, you may not be able to judge whether it's safe to cross a street at night.

Esposito sees the effects of drinking and walking in the trauma room every year.

In addition, his cousin was killed when he was struck by a car after opting to walk home from a New Year's party instead of driving.

More than half of pedestrians who are killed on New Year's Day have been drinking, according to studies.

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fall, exclusively at Sephora. Givenchy artistic director Nicolas Degennes told Metro the idea came after years of dissatisfaction with regular mascaras, which he finds tend to clump and coat lashes unevenly. At first he bent the brushes in an effort to create a shape that could hit every lash, including those at the inner corners of the eyes, and he used sewing needles to as a lash separator. Eventually he took scissors to the brushes, which sparked the concept for a new shape.

According to Degennes, Phenomen'Eyes is all about a meticulous finish.

"The brush is designed not only to look good, but also to make application extremely easy. It can be

maneuvered horizontally or vertically, or on a slant to catch all the lash-

es, even the tiniest ones," he said. "The mascara) can also be applied on the outer corners with amazing precision by holding the brush vertically under the eye and pushing the lashes upwards one by one to coat them with the mascara."

Givenchy Phenomen'Eyes Mascara, \$32 at Sephora

L'Oréal Paris Telescopic Explosion Mascara, \$12.95

CoverGirl LashBlast Luxe Mascara, \$8.99

Givenchy Phenomen'Eyes Mascara, \$32 at Sephora

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For agenda and registration information:

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Two wine tips

Toronto wine writer Carolyn Evans Hammond offers these two tips on improving a wine: 1) Chill the bottle — 10 minutes in the fridge for reds, 20 minutes for whites and roses; 2) Serve it in crystal stemware. Smaller rim-to-bowl ratio captures aromas. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Food



New Year's food traditions

Here are some fun traditions to start with your family and friends at your casual at-home New Year's Eve gathering: Instead of eating at the dinner table, why not have your celebratory meal at a coffee table? It's cosier and more intimate when everyone is seated on the floor on pillows. A congenial way to usher in the new year is to make a fondue so family and friends can enjoy dipping chunks of bread into a cheese or chocolate treat. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Liquid Assets

Peter Rockwell



metronews.ca/liquidassets

Budget bubbly

I love it when I'm reminded how well certain wine and food styles go together. Last week — while on a pre-Christmas jaunt to New York City — I had a chance to eat at Buddakan: A restaurant as famous for its dramatic layout as it is for its modern take on Asian cuisine.

Maybe it was the spirit of the holidays (or our dollar's near par exchange rate), but I had a bottle of **Veuve Clicquot Brut Yellow Label Champagne (\$64.95 - \$69)** with my multi-course meal.

The combination of the eclectic flavours on my plate with the fresh fruit expression of the liquid in my glass was one of those gee-whiz wine moments: the kind where you get a few goose bumps when you realize how well these two match-up.

You can get a similar experience without taking the champagne route because there are plenty of budget bubbly that taste dynamite; with **Freixenet's Cordon Negro Brut (\$13.95 - \$15.99)** from Spain, **Jacob's Creek Chardonnay Pinot Noir Cuvée (\$13.95 - \$15.99)** from Australia and **Domaine Chandon's Brut Classic (\$21.90 - \$30.99)** made in California, all offering a champagne sensibility at more than half the price.

Happy New Year!



Peter Rockwell is the everyman's wine writer, working in the liquor industry for more than 25 years and travelling the globe looking for something to fill his glass and put into words.

Warming up to winter

Hottie tottie recipes from local chefs

These elegant hot drinks can be enjoyed on their own — think of a boozy coffee or hot cocoa topped with whipped cream — or in the place of dessert.

Scorched marshmallow hot chocolate

When he created this decadent cocktail, Jonathan Humphrey, bar manager of the Drake Hotel, was inspired by a childhood memory of enjoying a steaming mug of hot chocolate with a marshmallow on top after tobogganing.

MAKES 1 DRINK

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup steamed 10 per cent cream
- 2 Tbsp chocolate syrup
- 1 oz Frangelico
- 3 large marshmallows, skewered on a soaked

- wooden skewer
- Whipped cream

METHOD:

In large mug, combine cream and chocolate syrup. Stir in Frangelico.

Using crème brûlée torch or barbecue lighter, carefully toast marshmallows, letting them very briefly catch fire. With marshmallows ablaze, gently dunk them in hot chocolate mixture, extinguishing flame. Top with whipped cream.

Algoma winter warmer

Grace Restaurant co-owner Chris Hoffman makes good use of cider produced at his wife, Leslie Gibson-Hoffman's, family orchard in Newcastle to make this warm, spiced cocktail that smells like apple pie just out of the oven. Hoffman uses

Algoma's apple cider.

MAKES 1 DRINK

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 Tbsp hazelnuts
- 1 Tbsp brown sugar
- 1-1/2 oz spiced rum
- 1/2 oz Frangelico
- 2 oz apple cider, warmed
- Ground cinnamon

METHOD:

In small baking pan, bake nuts in preheated 350F oven 10 to 15 minutes or until lightly browned and blistered. Wrap in clean dish towel; let steam 1 minute. Rub in towel to remove loose skins. Let cool.

In food processor, finely crush sugar and hazelnuts. Moisten rim of a glass and press into crushed mixture to form a rim. Add rum, Frangelico and cider. Stir gently. Sprinkle with cinnamon. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**



Jonathan Humphrey, bar manager of the Drake Hotel, creates a scorched marshmallow hot chocolate.

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After five seasons, two Daytime Emmy awards and too many girl-power episodes to count, Tyra Banks is announcing the end of The Tyra Show. "This will be the last season of The Tyra Show," Banks said. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONWS.CA

Kabbalah talk

Jennifer Aniston is said to be considering converting to Kabbalah after striking up a friendship with devotee Demi Moore, according to the Daily Mail.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Familiar faces return

Kids In the Hall, Trailer Park Boys prep TV comebacks

A new year, a new batch of TV shows to savour.

There may be a chill in the air, but things are heating up on the tube as several new Canadian series prepare to launch in early 2010. From the long-awaited return of the Kids in the Hall to a sexy adaptation of the Giller Prize-winning book Bloodletting & Miraculous Cures to a potty-mouthed Jason Priestley, there are plenty of homegrown series on tap for those snowed-in nights. A look at what's in store in the coming months:

Bloodletting & Miraculous Cures (HBO Canada): This adaptation of the Giller Prize-winning book by Vincent Lam promises

to be a mix of E.R. and Grey's Anatomy, with its sexy cast, love triangle storyline and hospital setting. Lam's collection of short stories, inspired by his own experiences as an E.R. doctor at a Toronto hospital, outlines a messy tangle of relationships that provide the jumping off point for this romantic drama. *Premieres Jan. 10.*

Call Me Fitz (TMN, Movie Central): This 13-part comedy brings actor/director Jason Priestley back to Canada as a charismatic used car dealer known as Richard Fitz Fitzpatrick. It's a role that allows Priestley to put his squeaky clean image as Brandon Walsh on the old 90210 teen soap

well behind him, with his crude, substance-abusing salesman pushing the boundaries of acceptable behaviour. *Expected to hit the air in the spring.*

The Drunk and on Drugs Happy Funtime Hour (Showcase): The stars of the Trailer Park Boys reunite for an outrageous six-episode comedy. Billed as "a genre-breaking and highly innovative mix of narrative and sketch comedy," the series stars Mike Smith, Robb Wells and JP Tremblay as the cast of a children's show gone awry. Rush guitarist Alex Lifeson plays an actor that assumes the identity of a German scientist to teach children about nutrition. Throw in a dan-

gerous cult and a dysfunctional crime family and you know this isn't your typical comedy. *Expected to debut in the spring.*

How to Look Good Naked Canada (W Network): Based on the highly successful British series starring Gok Wan, this self-help show aims to get Canadian women feeling good about themselves, with and without clothes. Former eTalk personality Zain Meghji hosts this 13-episode, one-hour program and with a team of fashion and lifestyle experts, tries to help restore body confidence to a new woman each week. *Launches on Jan. 5.*

Death Comes to Town (CBC): The Kids in the Hall



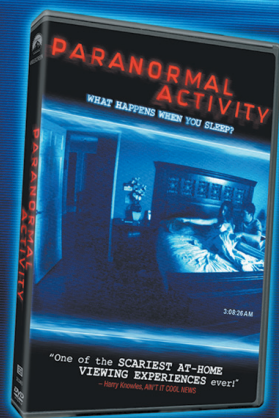
The Kids in the Hall's Death Comes to Town debuts on Jan. 12.

are back, and early clips from the show suggest they've lost none of their delightfully surreal and subversive touch. Mark McKinney, Bruce McCulloch, Dave Foley, Scott Thompson and Kevin McDonald forego their sketch roots for a full-out narrative plot that revolves around a small town killing spree. Still, ladies undergarments and fat suits abound as the beloved comics take on multiple roles. *Debuts Jan. 12.*

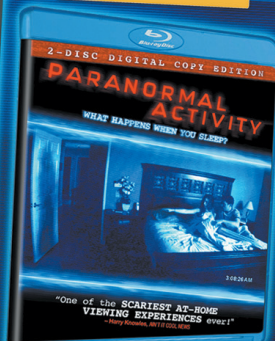
Pure Pwnage (Showcase): This show is being billed as the first Canadian series to originate on the Internet. Pronounced Pure Own-age, it's based on a four-year-old web series that boasts more than 200,000 visitors a month. This half-hour comedy is being billed as a gamer's version of Curb Your Enthusiasm with a touch of Flight of the Conchords. *Debuts in March 2010.*

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Details subject to change.

Rihanna to cover up

Rihanna has been told to cover up for her concert in Abu Dhabi on New Year's Eve. The 21-year-old singer must dress "conservatively" for the performance at the Emirates Palace. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK



DVD picks

Paranormal Activity

Director: **Oren Peli**

THIS MAY BE the best homage to (or rip-off of) The Blair Witch Project since that shaky-cam shocker set the bar for low-budget horror a decade ago. Your stomach may be the final judge.

Writer/director Oren Peli's lo-fi pulse-raiser, made for a reported \$15,000 US, has relentlessly awful camera work that could constitute a serious threat to timorous tummies.

Without explanation, we are plunged immediately into a home haunting. San Diego couple Micah and Katie (Micah Sloat and Katie Featherston) station a video camera on a tripod in their bedroom. It maintains silent sentry of all things that go bump in the night — and they really do.



If you're a horror fan, you probably won't be astonished. It's clever stuff, but not the scariest movie of all time, as the market-ing insisted.

On the other hand, the film is frequently chilling. Extras include an alternate ending, the original one envisioned by Peli before Hollywood got involved.

Jennifer's Body

Director: **Karyn Kusama**

HAD DIABLO CODY not charmed all comers and scored an Oscar for her linguisticaly limber screenplay for Juno, it's unlikely her sophomore outing with this non-bawdy horror flick would have attracted attention — or disappointment — outside of bored and horny teen boys.

Yet Cody is the pen behind this tepid tale of demonic possession, and



that's the really satanic thing about it. As in, what the hell happened?

Directed by Karyn Kusama, who peaked with her 2000 debut Girlfight, it's a paint-by-numbers story about demon-possessed high schooler Jennifer (Megan Fox), who runs amok in smalltown America, determined to devour boys in all the wrong ways. Amanda Seyfried is her BFF named Needy, who is supposedly mousey because she wears glasses.

It's Ginger Snaps without the snap.

The jam-packed extras include a commentary by Cody and Kusama and deleted scenes.

9

Director: **Shane Acker**

THIS post-apocalyptic adventure adds up to everything except an obvious audience.



Very much inspired by

the gorgeously weird stop-motion animation of producer Tim Burton, although it's actually done with computer graphics, it's the extended and enhanced version of director Shane Acker's Oscar-nominated 2004 short by the same name.

Both films feature zippered rag doll creations — "stitchpunks," as they're called — that are at once exotic while exhibiting human emotions. But are they human enough? The characters are given numbers rather than names, and their adventures in a ruined urban landscape are likely to terrify many of the younger tots who might conceivably be the target audience.

Older viewers will appreciate the craft that goes into Acker's work — there's genuine vision in it — and also the story that nods to sci-fi classics without stealing from them outright.

Extras include a commentary by Acker, deleted scenes and the original short film.

Peter Howell/for Metro Canada

Entertainment in brief

PEOPLE Filmmaker Roman Polanski says letters from supporters have been full of comfort and reason to hope. Polanski's first public comments

since his Sept. 26 arrest at Zurich airport came in a letter transmitted to French philosopher and friend Bernard-Henri Levy. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Mix of Six

DANCE The National Ballet of Canada continues its run of The Nutcracker at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, 145 Queen St. W. thenutcracker.ca.

COMEDY The Rivoli, 332 Queen St. W., presents its weekly SketchComedy Lounge at 9 p.m. sketchcomedylounge.com

THEATRE Robin Hood, The Environmental Family Musical is being performed through Jan. 3 at the Elgin Theatre, 189 Yonge St. rosspetty.com

FAMILY The Little Red Theatre/Cascade Theatre performs Little Red Riding Hood as part of a series of family-oriented productions at the Theatre Centre, 1087 Queen St. W. 416-533-8848

CELEBRATION The Scottish New Year is being celebrated with a Hogmanay Party at Gibson House, 5172 Yonge St. Pre-register by calling 416-395-7432

OPERA The Toronto Operetta Theatre presents Countess Maritza by Imre Kálmán at the Jane Mallett Theatre, 27 Front St. E. torontooperetta.com

	Vu	SD	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	265	353	2	TVO Parks	Recreat. Eden	The Best of The Agenda	East West 101 'Another Life'	Science and Islam (N)	Best-Agenda			
	211	331	3	GTV ET Canada	Entertainment	NCIS 'Deliverance'	Crash & Burn	The Limelighters	News Hour			
	215	343	4	OMN1 Two/Half Men	The Office	Omni News: Italian Edition (N)	Vivere V	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Metrolia			
	210	302	6	CBC Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Anne Murray: Friends	Holiday Festival on Ice	CBC News: The National	The Hour			
	214	344	7	CITY Murdoch Mysteries (HDTV)	Murdoch Mysteries (HDTV)	Parks-Recreat	Parks-Recreat	The Jay Leno Show (N)	News			
	212	313	8	CTV Corner Gas	Degrassi: TNG	Playing House (2006, Romance-Comedy)	(DVS)	Peak Season	Peak Season			
	218	345	11	CHCH An Ideal Husband *** (1999, Romance-Comedy)		Mimic ** (1997, Horror) Mira Sorvino, Jeremy Northam		News at 11 (N)				
	-	-	14	-	Family Guy	Omni News: S. Asian Edition	Omni News: Cantonese Edition	Two/Half Men 'King	Cold Case			
	213	326	15	SUN The Insider (N)	The Simpsons	Jump Up Toronto	Steel City Com 'Hitchcock Pres	20/20 (HDTV) (N)	King Kaboom			
	-	387	16	CBS Inside Edition	Access H	NCIS 'Deliverance'	The 32nd Annual Kennedy Center Honors (N)	News 4 at 11				
news	-	385	17	NBC The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Parks-Recreat	Parks-Recreat	Parks-Recreat	The Jay Leno Show (N)	News		
	-	386	18	ABC Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Rudolph's Shiny New Year	Scrubs	Better Off Ted	20/20 (HDTV) (N)	News		
	219	346	20	ACH-B Sue Thomas: F.B. Eye		Would Be Kings (2006, Crime Drama) (DVS)		Stargate Atlantis (DVS)	A News			
	-	-	28	FOX Judge Judy	Two/Half Men	The Benchwarmers * (2006, Comedy) David Spade		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons		
	-	388	61	PBS PBS NewsHour	Foot in Grave	Nova (HDTV) Development of the embryo. (N) (DVS)		The Power of the Poor	Business Rpt.			
	297	652	330	WPX Two/Half Men	Family Guy	90210 (HDTV)	Melrose Place 'Grand'	PIX News at Ten Tong	Two/Half Men			
	296	654	331	SBK The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Law & Order: SVU	WBL News (N)	The Office	Name Is Earl	Fraser		
	298	653	332	TLA The Tyra Show		According-Jim 'Family Guy	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	90210		
	502	390	26	NW The Nature of Things		CBC News: the fifth estate	CBC News: The National	CBC News: the fifth estate	National			
	500	300	33	CNN CNN Tonight (N)		Campbell Brown (N)	Larry King Live (N)	Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)				
sports	509	504	79	CNB Kudlow Report (Live)		Biography on CNBC	Swosh! Inside Nike	Coca-Cola: The Real Story	Mad Money			
	405	417	22	net POKER		UFC: Access MMA Conn	The Ultimate Fighter	Sportsnet Connected	Hockey Central			
	400	400	30	TSN That's Hockey! 2010 IIHF		Hockey IIHF World Junior Championship: Canada vs. Slovakia		SportsCentre				
	411	457	58	OLN Ghost Hunters		Destination Truth	Operate-Repo	Operate-Repo	Ghost Hunters	Destin. Truth		
	417	406	81	SC Pass Time	Pass Time	Monster Jam (HDTV)	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time		
	551	542	25	YTV To Be Indie	To Be Indie	8 Simple Rules	8 Simple Rules	Family Biz (N)	Prank Patrol	Adrenaline Proj		
	554	544	45	TEL Scooby-Doo	Total Drama	Total Drama	Futurama	King of the Hill	American Dad	Futurama	Robot Chicken	
	556	540	51	FAM Overruled!	Minutemen (2006, Comedy) Jason Doherty		Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven	
	602	567	27	W (6:30) Miss Congeniality ** (2000, Comedy)			Little Miss Sunshine *** (2006, Comedy-Drama) Greg Kinnear					
	570	580	29	MM Gossip Girl (HDTV)		Doin' Costa Rica (N)	Selena Gomez My Date With...	Hotties '09		disBAND		
family	615	520	31	A&E Criminal Minds 'Jones'		Criminal Minds (HDTV)	Psychic Kids: Paranormal	Paranormal	Paranormal	Ghost Stories		
	700	800	35	TLN Centovetrine	Sky TG 24	Due Imbroglioni e Mezzo (2007) Sabrina Ferilli, Claudio Bisio	George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez	Lopez Tonight		
	571	581	36	MMM Top 50 Videos of the 00s		Top 50 Videos of the 00s	I Want to Work for Diddy	Entourage	Wild 'n Out	mmtop10.ca		
	575	583	38	CMT CMT Live	Backstage-Tina	Reba	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reid	
	616	521	39	SHO The Outer Limits		Termination Point (2007, Suspense)	Journey Justin Hines	Bulging Brides	Bulging Brides	ET Canada		
	602	523	40	BVO A Song to Sing-O		Live at the Rehearsal Hall	Wedding SOS	Wedding SOS	Body-Goldberg Variation	Law & Order		
	601	562	41	SLC Rich Bride, Poor Bride		Wedding SOS	Wedding SOS	Wedding SOS	Bulging Brides	Bulging Brides	ET Canada	
	522	506	43	HIS The True Story of Black Hawk Down			Black Hawk Down *** (2001, War)	Josh Hartnett, Ewan McGregor				
	625	548	44	COM Air Force	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Blue Collar TV	Daily Show	
	600	564	46	H&G Income Prop.	Income Prop.	Income Prop.	Income Prop.	Income Prop.	Income Prop.	Income Prop.	Income Prop.	
cable variety	294	529	47	TBS Family Guy	Family Guy	House-Payne	House-Payne	Law & Order: SVU		Under Siege 2: Dark Territory ** (1995)		
	576	582	49	BET Family Matters	To Be Announced					Monica: Still	Monica: Still	Mo'Nique
	627	528	50	SPC (5:15) Batman Returns		Spider-Man *** (2002, Action) Tobey Maguire, Willem Dafoe		16 and Pregnant	Teen Mom 'Moving On'	MTV Live		
	581	566	52	MTV MTV Cries	Decade of Cries			Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	
	618	524	54	TROP Survivor: All-Stars		Survivor: All-Stars	The Sole Surviving All-Star		Family Guy	70s Show	70s Show	
	603	561	56	FOOD Unwrapped	Unwrapped			Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	
	261	394	60	V Murder, She Wrote		Hallelujah!	Dinnerladies	Great Souls 'Billy Graham'	Great Souls	The Aga Khan		
	621	527	63	STR Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show	The View (HDTV)	The View (HDTV)	The Dr. Oz Show (HDTV)	TMZ		
	553	546	65	TRE Backyardigans	Night Garden	Waybuloo	Franklin	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Babar	Zigby	Max & Ruby
	526	507	249	VIVA Cold Case		Missing 'Sisterhood'	The Closer 'Manhunt'	Cold Case	Cold Case	Logic Inv.		
cable variety	300	601	301	M1 Get Smart	(7:35) The Blue Elephant (2008)		Revolutionary Road *** (2008, Drama), Kathy Bates	About a Boy *** (2002, Comedy-Drama) Hugh Grant	The Reader	The Reader		
	305	612	306	PIX (6:20) Any Given Sunday *** (1999, Drama)					The Hours			
	520	146	-	DISC Canada's Worst Handyman	Canada's Worst Handyman	Canada's Worst Handyman	Canada's Worst Handyman	Canada's Worst Handyman	Handyman			
	637	-	-	TVLND Red Green	Red Green	Fantasy Island	Hart to Hart	Andy Griffith	Phil Silvers	Bizarre		
	605	-	-	FASH Story Of Spice Girls		FashionTele	RAW	Canada's Next Top Model	America's Next Top Model	Pretty Wicked		

critics'corner

Little Miss Sunshine

One of the best-reviewed films of 2006, this comedy follows a family on the road to California and the title beauty competition, which the daughter is eager to participate in. Numerous crises and complications arise en route, constantly putting the tempers of the rest of the clan to the test. 9 PM on W



NCIS If we've said it once, we've said it a million times: Don't get yourself wrapped up in an inner-city gang war when you're investigating the death of a Marine. But that's just what the members of the NCIS team do. Making matters worse, Gibbs must face down demons from his past when he finds a cryptic message waiting for him at the crime scene in "Deliverance." 8 PM on GTV CBS

Parks and Recreation

Hoping to promote the local zoo, Leslie arranges for two penguins to wed, but things don't go as planned when it turns out the penguins are both male. Mark puts Ann in an awkward position by asking her out to see a movie in "Pawnee Zoo." 8 PM on NBC



Natalie Portman is romancing the big brother of Miley Cyrus' Australian boyfriend. Portman met Star Trek actor Chris Hemsworth after they were cast together in forthcoming movie Thor, femalefirst.co.uk reports. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Portman after an Aussie

Celebrity Buzz

Winehouse, Blake hold commitment ceremony?

THEIR RELATIONSHIP IS IN REHAB Amy Winehouse and Blake Fielder-Civil are making this Christmas holiday one to remember by reportedly holding an unofficial commitment ceremony near where Fielder-Civil is in rehab in England, according to the Sun.

"They keep saying how much in love they are and need to be together," a source says. "So they have decided to have an unofficial ceremony to silence the doubters..."

It has also been reported that Winehouse is being treated for nervous exhaustion after she collapsed at home during the weekend, according to femalefirst.co.uk.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Ex denies robbing Jon

AMONG THE MISSING ITEMS: GOSSELIN'S DIGNITY An attorney for Jon Gosselin's ex-girlfriend says the ransacking of his NYC apartment was nothing more than a "huge, huge publicity stunt," usmagazine.com reports.

A lawyer for Gosselin, 32, told usmagazine.com that he returned to New York Dec. 26 after spending Christmas in Pennsylvania with his eight children to find that his

Upper West Side apartment had been burglarized.

According to reports, a nasty note from ex Haley Glassman was stabbed to their dresser with a butcher knife. Glassman told police she wrote the note, in

which she called the reality dad a "lowlife," but tells the New York Post she did not punctuate it with the blade.

She also denies slashing his clothing, smashing his family's 100-year-old Ming-style vase or destroying his electronics.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Spears fighting Christmas blues

IT'S A BLUE, BLUE CHRISTMAS Britney Spears has been having a particularly rough holiday season, according to the National Enquirer. Her Christmas blues has nothing to do with presents — the tabloid claims

the pop star is haunted by a reunion with ex-husband Kevin Federline two years ago that allegedly resulted in a terminated pregnancy shortly thereafter.

Britney fights depression every Christmas season, but this Christmas "has been one of the worst for her," a source close to the former star says.

The insider claims that during a recent emotional meltdown, Spears cried out, "I killed my baby!"

METRO WORLD NEWS



No divorce coming for Sheen, Mueller

FIGHT, FIGHT, FIGHT Despite a Christmas morning fight that landed Charlie Sheen in jail, he and wife Brooke Mueller aren't splitting up, according to the actor's manager. "I have spoken to all parties concerned. There are no plans for divorce," Mark Burg tells Radar Online.

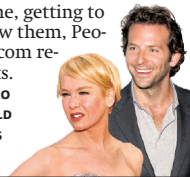
METRO WORLD NEWS



Zellweger meets Cooper's parents

GIFT GIVING Bradley Cooper and Renee Zellweger got quite a present this Christmas: The approval of his parents. The couple spent the holiday with Cooper's parents at his L.A. home, getting to know them, People.com reports.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Celebrity tweets

Ivanka Trump is having an educational honeymoon, Brody Jenner doesn't like to share with other surfers, Jared Leto knows how to celebrate getting older, and Lady Gaga is ready to party in Louisiana.

* @IvankaTrump Safari fun fact: Did you know elephants eat up to 5% of their body weight daily but only digest 40% of what they eat?

* @BrodyJenner Sorry but I can not tell you where that wave is.. Secret spot :)

* @JaredLeto Thank you all so much for the bday wishes!!! I'm in aspen snowboarding and its beautiful.

* @ladygaga Show me your teeth new orleans



METRO WORLD NEWS

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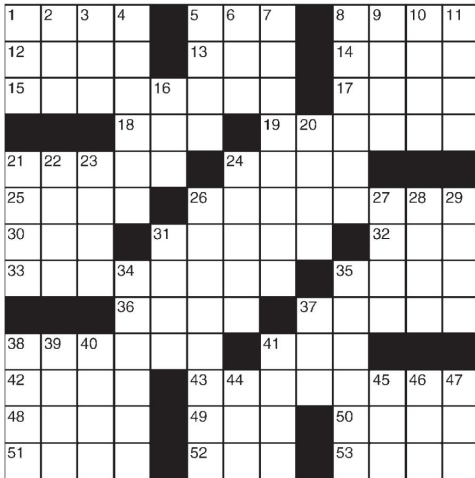
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Take Five



ACROSS

- 1 Sleeve end
- 5 Barracks bed
- 8 Snare
- 12 Largest continent
- 13 Bonfire residue
- 14 Mysterious character
- 15 Buttercup cousin
- 17 "Do — others ..."
- 18 Nosh
- 19 Source
- 21 In two places
- 24 "— the night before ..."
- 25 Imitate
- 26 Place saver of a sort
- 30 — de-France
- 31 Fight verbally
- 32 Card player's call
- 33 Turkey preference for some
- 35 Somewhat, in music
- 36 Meadows
- 37 Be obliged (to)

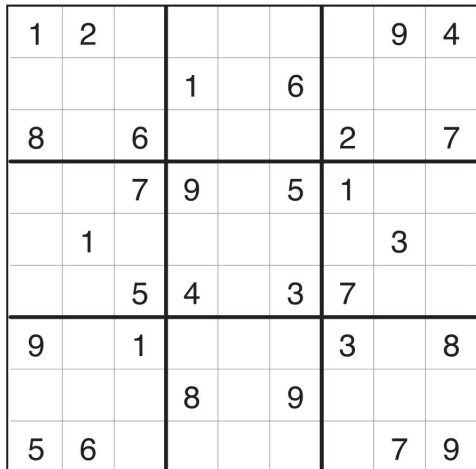
DOWN

- 1 Ore. neighbor
- 2 NAFTA signatory
- 3 Christmas tree, often
- 4 Charlatanism
- 5 Team leader (Abbr.)
- 6 Buckeyes' sch.
- 7 Ditch
- 8 Self-evident statement
- 9 Ladder component
- 10 Con
- 11 Drudge
- 16 Took a load off
- 20 Croupier's tool
- 21 Alkali neutralizer
- 22 Silents star
- 23 Mimic
- 24 Frat party garb
- 26 Respite
- 27 Enthusiastic
- 28 Opulent
- 29 Entanglement
- 31 Prayer ending
- 34 Nept
- 35 Preacher's place
- 37 Bullring bravo
- 38 On
- 39 BLT topper
- 40 Raw minerals
- 41 Without acting
- 44 Verily
- 45 Commotion
- 46 CSA soldier
- 47 A Round Table knight

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



6	1	5	8	3	2	9	7	4
2	4	3	7	9	6	1	5	8
9	7	8	5	4	1	6	2	3
8	2	4	6	5	9	3	1	7
3	6	7	1	2	4	5	8	9
5	9	1	3	7	8	4	6	2
4	5	6	9	8	7	2	3	1
1	8	9	2	6	3	7	4	5
7	3	2	4	1	5	8	9	6



Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES

MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Because Venus and Saturn cut across two of the most sensitive areas of your chart today you must take care not get involved in any senseless fights.

LIBRA

SEPT 23-OCT 23
You feel there are no restrictions, you feel you can do as you please. That may be true of some areas but it's not true of all areas.

TAURUS

APRIL 21-MAY 21
If your energy goes off a cliff today under no circumstances try to push yourself even harder.

SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22
A little bit of what you fancy will do you a lot of good today, but be aware that if you get greedy and take too much you will surely regret it.

GEMINI

MAY 22-JUNE 21
Do you let down your hair and have fun or do you put duty first and make major inroads on your workload?

SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21
Although you have both the right and the might to force others to do your bidding it's not a good idea.

CANCER

JUNE 22-JULY 22
Do everything in your power to stay on the good side of partners and loved ones today. The last thing you want now is to get involved in a row.

CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20
Dealing with people in positions of authority could get a bit stressful today, but it is nothing you cannot handle.

LEO

JULY 23-AUG 23
Don't get angry if you have to make last-minute changes to plans you thought were cut and dried.

AQUARIUS

JAN 21-FEB 18
Do something that makes others sit up and take notice. Do something that reminds both those you love and those you work with that you are special.

VIRGO

AUG 24-SEPT 22
Others can take foolish risks if they want today — it's a free world — but you don't have to follow their example.

PISCES

FEB 19-MARCH 20
If you rush what you are working on today you will most likely have to go back and do it again later, so take your time and get it right.

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This day in history

1778: American Revolutionary War: 3,500 British soldiers under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Archibald Campbell capture Savannah, GA., without firing a shot.

1890: United States soldiers kill more than 200 Oglala Lakota men, women, and children with four Hotchkiss guns in the Wounded Knee Massacre.

1930: Sir Muhammad Iqbal's presidential address in Allahabad introduces the Two-Nation Theory and outlines a vision for the creation of Pakistan.

1998: Leaders of the Khmer Rouge apologize for the 1970s genocide in Cambodia that claimed over 1 million.

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